



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MEMORANDUM

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCIO

DAVID P. LITTELL

COMMISSIONER

GOVERNOR

TO: Board of Environmental Protection

FROM: Dawn Hallowell, Marybeth Richardson, and Beth Callahan, project managers
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

RE: Central Maine Power Company, Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP)

DATE: August 6, 2009

Statutory and Regulatory References: Applicable statutes under which this project is being reviewed are the Site Location of Development Act, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 481 – 490, the Natural Resources Protection Act, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 480-A et seq., and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, § 401. The pertinent administrative criteria are outlined in the Department's Rules for Processing Applications, 06-096 CMR 2. Section 17 of the Rules includes the criteria for the Board to assume jurisdiction over a pending permit application.

Location: The MPRP is essentially an approximately 360-mile long upgrade of existing electrical transmission corridor that runs from Kittery to Orrington, and affects 75 separate municipalities.

Description: The MPRP, proposed by Central Maine Power Company (CMP), includes the upgrade of existing transmission lines to 345 kV and 115 kV, the re-building of existing 345 kV and 115 kV lines, and the construction or expansion of 12 electrical substations (5 new and 7 existing). The MPRP application was accepted by the Department for processing on July 7, 2009. Approximately 82 percent of the development will occur within existing transmission line corridor and 16 percent within and adjacent to the corridor.

The deadline for requesting Board jurisdiction or for the Board to hold a public hearing ended July 27. The Department received ten letters and emails of interest, including one from the Stanton Bird Club, which requested that the Board take jurisdiction over the application and one from the State of Maine Chamber of Commerce discouraging the Board to take jurisdiction.

The Department intends to conduct several public informational meetings to hear concerns raised by interested parties during the fall of this year.

Environmental Issues: The MPRP will result in stream impacts, impacts to freshwater wetlands and impacts to significant wildlife habitat, including significant vernal pools and inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat. The proposed impacts are summarized in the attached tables 1-4 and 1-5. Permanent wetland fill impacts from both transmission line and substation improvements will total approximately 14 acres. Impacts from cutting in significant wildlife habitats will be approximately 125 acres, and approximately 1,200 linear feet of a stream will be relocated as part

GUSTAS
STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769-2094
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

of a substation expansion. The compensation package proposed by CMP includes a combination of wetland and significant wildlife habitat preservation, wetland restoration, and stream restoration.

The MPRP will also be evaluated to determine whether there will be any significant visual or scenic impacts, and the application contains a comprehensive scenic assessment report that catalogues each segment where physical changes will be occurring, as well as each substation.

Department Recommendation: The Department recognizes that the MPRP project is extremely large and encompasses a wide geographical area. Because of this, CMP was required to retain the services of an objective, third-party environmental consultant to review the application for accuracy in reporting of the presence of natural resources such as wetlands and vernal pools. This review is ongoing. At this time, the Department is still evaluating but does not recommend that the Board assume jurisdiction over the project application. If the Board expresses an interest, the Department certainly can brief the Board on a regular basis during the review of the project, with the understanding that the Board can assume jurisdiction over the project at any time during the processing of the application.

Estimated time of presentation: 15 minutes